

**SYNOPSIS OF SERVICES AND PROJECTS
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SERVICE CENTER
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Funding and Service Area:

The Santa Clarita Valley Service Center was established in 1982. The Center currently operates under Federal Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) and County General funds. CDBG funds are provided through a performance contract with the County's Community Development Commission.

The Center serves residents of the Santa Clarita Valley and other areas of Northern Los Angeles County from the Kern and Ventura County lines to the San Bernardino County Lines.

Hours of Operation:

General services are offered 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Center's Emergency Food Pantry and Bread for Santa Clarita Program services are available from 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. daily, Tuesday through Friday.

Client Intake

As required by federal CDBG guidelines, all persons requesting services are required to complete a client file, and present picture identification and proof of income. Clients who cannot present these items may fill out a self-declaration from promising to present these items upon demand.

CENTER SERVICES

The Santa Clarita Valley Service Center provides a wide range of direct services to needy area residents including but not limited to:

Information and Referral to Government Agencies, Legal Services, Job training and Employment Services, Medical & Dental services, Family and Domestic Abuse Counseling, Consumer Issues, Senior Citizens, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counseling, and Citizenship Services.

Emergency Food Pantry services including United States commodities and community donated items including bread and perishables.

Advocacy and Counseling Services in the areas of employment, education; public assistance, disability and social security matters; citizenship, tenant/landlord, child custody and support issues, community housing and medical and other community assistance programs.

Government Form Preparation Assistance and Translations related to employment applications, unemployment documents; school enrollment and tenant applications; legal declarations and others. Translation of legal documents such as birth, marriage and death certificates, and government forms

Emergency Services include limited clothing and depending upon availability, financial assistance through the Center's network of providers including the Salvation Army, Unidas and other non-profit community emergency financial resources

Bureau Of Child Support Information Kiosk

The Santa Clarita Valley Service Center has on its premises the region's Bureau of Child Support Kiosk that offers information to custodial and non-custodial parents on County services that assist children obtain financial support from their parents.

Online County Assisted Housing Registration for low-income area residents that wish to apply for the County's Section 8 and public assisted housing.

CENTER PROJECTS

The Santa Clarita Valley Service Center operates a number of seasonal and year-round projects meeting the special needs of community residents:

Operation Immunization provides free immunizations to children aged 6 months to 18 years of age and operates from May through September of each year. Operation Immunization is delivered in partnership with the County Department of Health Services, Northeast Valley Health Corporation, and Samuel Dixon Family Health Center. The Santa Clarita Valley Service Center is responsible for the coordination of the entire project.

Healthcare Provider's Roundtable was established as a resource to aid school district nurses with County services in a case management approach providing collective and organized assistance to acutely ill children of the region. The Roundtable with its 76 member agencies and organizations also serve as a community forum for discussion and resolution of regional health issues, exchange ideas, learn about new resources, and to influence policy change in the manner in which local governments, agencies and organizations are serving children in this community.

Annual Youth and Senior Citizen Summer Camp Program provides one week of summer camp enjoyment in the Santa Monica Mountains to low-income community youngsters and senior citizens. Needy children between the ages of 7 and 13 year of Santa Clarita Valley Service Center

age and low-income seniors over 62 years of age are eligible for this service. The Center's annual camp slots are negotiated through the Salvation Army.

Utilities Assistance Program provides financial assistance for low-income families and individuals during the winter months of February and March. Assistance is limited to a maximum \$100 per household to Southern California Gas and Southern California Edison electricity customers only. Center funds for this project are negotiated through the United Way.

Annual Holiday Assistance Project provides new toys for needy children up to 12 years of age and a turkey for their families. The Santa Clarita Valley Service Center serves as a clearinghouse for groups and organizations wanting to assist a child or family for the holidays. This project also provides new toys and clothing to all foster children and youth under the region's Department of Children's Services Foster Care program.

This project is in full operation during the Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Santa Clarita Valley Literacy Project offers English and Spanish literacy education services through a joint effort of the Santa Clarita Valley Service Center, College of the Canyons and the Public Library of the County of Los Angeles. Year-around classes are offered Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings and weekday evenings at no cost to participants.

Foster Care Kid Project provides care packages including a new blanket, assorted toiletries and a stuffed animal for the personal use of children that are initially being placed into foster care by the Department of Children and Family Services. This project is coordinated by the Santa Clarita Valley Service Center and operates in partnership with the Santa Clarita United Methodist Church and community volunteers

Coats for Needy Kids Project provides donated new and nearly new coats for extremely low-income children of the Santa Clarita region. Coats are collected annually during the early Fall season and distributed to children during the Fall and Winter season.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Project (VITA) established to provide free tax preparation services through center volunteers trained and supervised by Cal State University at Northridge VITA Program, Broad Spectrum, Inc., the Internal Revenue Service and the California Franchise Tax Board. Tax preparation services are available

to low income families and individuals on weekdays, evenings and weekends during the tax season.

Successful Students Homework Club is a free tutoring service that assists area children and youth to obtain assistance in understanding school lessons and completing

their homework. Tutors are available in English, math science and other disciplines. This project operates in collaboration with volunteer students from College of the Canyons and The Masters College.

Toy Loan Project is a free service that allows low-income children to borrow toys from the Toy Loan Center in the same manner in which they borrow books from the public library. The program assists children in building good character and citizenship while at the same time, work towards earning a new toy of their own.

Bread for Santa Clarita Project daily distributes fresh bread and pastry to low-income Santa Clarita families and other regional emergency food providers

Baby Discovery Day established in 2006 by the Santa Clarita Valley Service Center identifies children from the age of birth to 3 years of age that may have special needs. This program provides parents with resources for timely intervention with agencies and organizations specializing with emotional, learning or physical disabilities of very young children. Early intervention means a world of difference in helping a child reach his or her maximum potential and assists families to obtain early diagnosis and help them be better informed parents who can participate more actively in the health needs and development of their child.

This project operates in collaboration with the North Los Angeles County Regional Center, the Family Focus Resource Center, and Santa Clarita SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area) Early Start Program).

The Santa Clarita Valley Sister Survey Study Project Assists in identifying women victims of breast cancer and their sisters to participate in a unique 10 year landmark study in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health. The study seeks to find the causes of breast cancer and examines genetic and environmental predispositions.

Santa Clarita Computer Gateway Project

The Santa Clarita Computer Gateway Project, a pilot demonstration service, provides free or very low cost (\$10) donated computers to qualified residents that meet the low-income guidelines established by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The project is jointly operated by the County of Los Angeles' Community and Senior Services through its Santa Clarita Valley Service Center, the College of the Canyons, and the Santa Clarita-Newhall Optimist Club. Together, these organizations narrow the wide "digital divide" among area residents by reconditioning and recycling donated computers to the target population.